

# THE Spacemaker

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, No. 15

McClellan Air Force Base, CALIF. (<http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/PA/spacemaker.html>)

APRIL 20, 2000

### TAKE NOTE

#### McClellan blood drive today

A blood drive is scheduled for today, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the community center. Eat and drink plenty of fluids before donating and bring a photo ID.

For more information, call Capt. Mark Weber at 643-5788.

#### Commissary closed Sunday

The McClellan commissary will be closed Sunday in observance of Easter.

#### Military housing inspection

The military family housing office requires a 30-day notice before departing base housing. The inspections should be scheduled at least 30 days prior to departure. For more information, call the Housing Office at 643-6221.

#### Cinco de Mayo tournament

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Noncommissioned Officers Association and the McClellan Latino Club is sponsoring a "Cinco de Mayo" four-person-scrabble golf tournament May 5 at Lawrence Links. Shotgun start at 7:30 a.m.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jim Morrison at 643-1073, Master Sgt. Kevin Sutton at 643-6808, or Master Sgt. Juan Gomez at 643-8343.

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"Completing the mission of McClellan Air Force Base with professionalism and honor"

### Special Olympics underway

Major Rick Spencer, 77th Communications Squadron commander, and Julie Henry, medal-winning athlete, cut the cake at the volunteer kickoff ceremony April 13. Those interested in volunteering their time for this event can call Senior Master Sgt. Bob Craig, 652nd Combat Logistics Support Squadron at 643-3554.



U.S. Air Force photo by Alicia Doyle

## Two selected for OTS

By Robin Jackson  
Editor

Two of McClellan's finest were recently selected to attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Tech. Sgt. Danita Anderson-Richards, Sacramento Air Logistics Center Judge Advocate Office, and Senior Airman Barbara McCoy, 77th Mission Support Squadron, were recently notified of their selection to OTS.

"We are proud of each individual's accomplishment and send our best wishes for their continuing success as they move on to new levels of leadership and increasing responsibilities," said Col. Charlie Cotter, 77th Air Base Wing commander.

According to Anderson-Richards, when her supervisors, Lt. Col. Robin Walmsley and Master Sgt. David Drake, notified her she

felt blessed, overwhelmed with joy, and sad.

"I feel blessed because my prayers have been answered," said Anderson-Richards. "Overwhelmed with joy because now I feel I will be in a position where I can truly make a difference. Sad because I feel my reasoning for choosing to do this is misunderstood."

Her motive for applying to OTS went beyond money or status, according to Anderson-Richards. She has motivation for continuous improvements; improvement of self, the process and product. She has an intense desire to lead the force into the next millennium and wants a more active role in the defense and security of our country.

Anderson-Richards has been in the Air Force for 16 years and earned a bachelor

**See OTS ... Page 6**

## Thank you Team McClellan

**T***o the men and women of Team McClellan --*

*Pam and I want to thank you for the best assignment in our Air Force career! Your generosity, support and friendship have been an overwhelming, positive force in our lives. I'm deeply honored that the Air Force deemed me worthy to command the best work force in the Department of Defense at McClellan AFB, Calif.*

*It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to get to know and work with each and every one of you. With your help and guidance, we have laid in all the plans and processes to complete the mission of McClellan AFB with professionalism and honor. I would love to stay here and see this process to its finish, but you are blessed by the decision of the Air Force to have Mr. Jim Barone take leadership of the center. He's an outstanding leader who understands our situation, knows our plans and shares my strong feeling that our work force is the number one priority.*

*Finally, Pam and I would like to thank you all for such a wonderful send-off as well as the numerous gifts and words of encouragement. Good luck and God bless each of you.*

*Very Respectfully,  
-- Brig. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer*

*"It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to get to know and work with each and every one of you."*

*-- Brig. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer*



## Saturday medical clinic appointments slated to end

**By Alica Doyle**  
Staff Writer

The McClellan Clinic will be terminating Saturday services, May 1. The final day for Saturday clinic appointments will be April 29.

According to the 77th Medical Group, only 40-80 percent of available weekend appointments were booked, with the "no-show" and cancellation rate for Saturday services rising to as high as 30 percent. Lack of

use, and the need to economically allocate resources were the dominant factors behind the change in hours.

Though the change in service seems like another sign of downsizing, services for the clinic's customers will actually improve.

Lt. Col. Norman Spector, 77th Medical Support Squadron commander explained the benefit to the McClellan community, "The clinic could better serve its customers by having all available providers and technicians working during the week," said Spector. "We

found that patients actually prefer appointments during the week when other services, such as the lab and pharmacy, are open, as well."

Appointments will be available for all Saturdays in April, and may be scheduled by calling central appointments at 643-7212.

**Editor's note:** The phone number to central appointments in last week's issue should have read 643-7212.

## SPACEMAKER

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### SPACEMAKER

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### Air Force Vision

*"Air Force people building the world's most respected air and space force ... global power and reach for America"*

### Air Force Materiel Command Vision

*"Quality Systems for America's Air Force"*

### Sacramento Air Logistics Center Vision

*"Completing the mission of McClellan AFB with professionalism and honor"*

# Experts improve anthrax education program

**By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem**  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Department of Defense anthrax experts are increasing their efforts to get service members and their families “good, credible information before they get disinformation” from other sources.

Army Col. Randy Randolph, director of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Agency, said his organization is currently doing four things to improve the vaccine education program.

The first and perhaps farthest-reaching step is a 23-minute video going out to the services by late April or early May. “We decided we needed a training product that could be sent out worldwide that all commanders could use to inform service members and family members about the anthrax program,” Randolph said.

He said the video includes information about the threat anthrax poses to U.S. service members, the lethality of anthrax, and the vaccine’s safety, as well as addressing rumors circulating and damaging the program’s credibility.

“It introduces some experts in DoD and many others outside of DoD who talk about these rumors and the credibility of the vaccine program,” Randolph said. He said the

video was designed with 18- to 25-year-olds in mind and will be mandatory watching for all service members within fiscal year 2000.

The second, a toll-free information line, 1-877-GET-VACC, began in summer 1999. Program experts man it Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time. Randolph said the agency could staff the line on evenings, weekends and holidays if the demand warrants, but that hasn’t been necessary so far.

The third, a new Internet site at [www.anthrax.osd.mil](http://www.anthrax.osd.mil), is already up and running as well. Randolph said the site is an improvement over previous ones because it incorporates visitors’ feedback and suggestions. He said his team is constantly adding information that people request on the Web site.

Randolph called the Internet site “the most important thing we’ve done to specifically address the misinformation on the Internet,” and he said more changes are in store. Because information is added constantly to the Web site, it’s grown too large to navigate easily, Randolph said. Yet another redesign, scheduled to be unveiled this summer, is intended to make the site easier to use.

The agency’s fourth step is to add a public e-mail address to contact program offi-

cials. Individuals can e-mail comments, questions and concerns to [avip@otsg.amedd.army.mil](mailto:avip@otsg.amedd.army.mil). The Web site has a direct e-mail link for visitors.

Randolph was quick to emphasize these products are additional steps in what has been an aggressive education process since the immunization program began in 1998.

Previous education products, still updated and used, include educational pamphlets and a PowerPoint troop-education briefing available to commanders on the Web site.

“We’ve tried to provide factual information to service members and family members up front in the most direct way to inform them about the program,” Randolph said. “We have made consistent, routine improvements to all of those products and created new products to reach wider audiences and better address their concerns.” And he’s not done yet.

“We are going to continue a very aggressive education effort until everyone understands what this program is about,” he said. “There is a very real threat. This disease, if contracted in an unprotected population, is very lethal. We’ve got a vaccine that’s as safe and effective as other vaccines that we routinely take and that we give our kids every day here in the United States.”

## *Services resale store attracts bargain hunters*

**By Jennifer Vargas**  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of bargain hunters lined up outside the non-appropriated funds resale store recently, hoping to grab hold of a good deal or two.

With the base fast on its way to closure, the folks of the 77th Services Division needed a way to move out thousands of dollars of merchandise, and that they did.

“We had people lined up outside the door hours before the store opened,” said Jonnie Johnson, 77th Services Division logistics specialist.

When the doors finally did open at 10 a.m., mobs of people flocked to the \$65, 27-inch television sets, \$125 oak dining room sets, \$60 sleeper sofas and bunches of ski equipment ranging anywhere from \$1 to \$25.

“You’ve got to be quick,” said Master Sgt. Catrina Barbee, 77th Medical Group first sergeant. “I had my eye on a \$55, cherry wood vanity table, and before I knew it, it was gone.”

Once the customer enters the store, they are given a pamphlet

with a listing of items and prices, said Ken Hyde, services division director. They can take small, hand-carry items off the shelves while larger items are tagged with a sold sign until the customer can pick them up by 3 p.m.

Most things were for sale on a first-come, first-served basis, according to Hyde. Other high-priced items were sold through sealed bid, including several \$250 kayaks, a \$400 paddleboat with trailer and numerous \$500 treadmills.

“After the sealed bids were opened at 3 p.m., we ended up selling the kayaks for \$450, the paddleboat for \$436 and a treadmill for \$600,” Johnson explained.

When all was said and done, the NAF resale store managed to sell more than \$10,000 of merchandise, according to Johnson.

The next sale, located in Bldg. 263F at 5033 Roberts Ave., is May 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The store is open to Department of Defense civilian personnel, active duty, reserve and retired military and civilian personnel or those with a current identification card. Payment options include cash, check and credit card.

For more information, call 643-6660.

# Earth Day celebrates 30 years

**By Steve Milligan**

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

It was the late 1960s, a time of peace, love and flower power.

Vietnam was raging and people were getting involved in causes – seems that any cause would do because it was fashionable. There were protests, love-ins and teach-ins.

It was the latter that gave former senator Gaylord Nelson the idea to hold a national teach-in on the environment. That idea gave birth to the first Earth Day.

In August 1969, Nelson went to work raising funds and preparing letters for 50 governors, and mayors of every major city, describing the event and seeking their support by having them issue Earth Day Proclamations.

Nelson said once the news got out about the teach-in to be held in the spring of 1970, it took off like gangbusters. By December, so many calls, letters, and telegrams had come in about Earth Day, he had to move activities out of his senate office and open an office in Washington to serve as a clearinghouse for inquiries and activities. At this point Nelson hired Dennis Hayes and oth-

ers to coordinate the effort. Hayes served as the executive director of the first Earth Day.

During the 25th anniversary of Earth Day,

Hayes wrote an article reflecting on its history in which he said, "The environmental movement is the

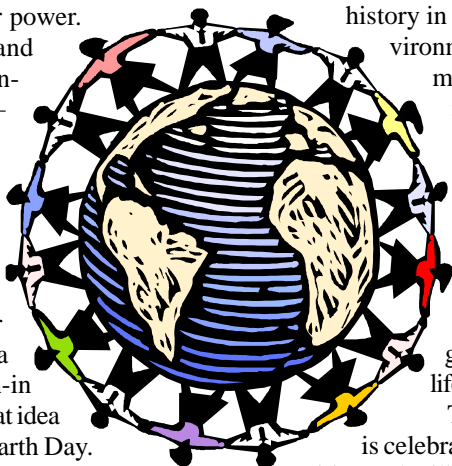
most successful social movement in American history. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent cleaning up the air, water, and land. Scores of federal and state laws have fundamentally changed the ground rules of modern life."

This Saturday, Earth Day is celebrated by schools, communities and military installations around

the world. The slogan this year, Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future, is intended to support the theme of reaching out to young people, while strengthening our efforts to protect people and the environment, now and in the future, said Gary D. Vest, acting deputy under secretary of defense.

According to Vest, it's up to all of us to reach out to young people and to raise awareness about environmental protection.

"April is a time to make pledges to strengthen existing relationships and to establish new ones with the young people who will inherit the future," Vest said.



## Team McClellan educates youths

**By Jennifer Vargas**

Staff Writer

Members of the Sacramento Air Logistics Center Environmental Management Directorate are reaching out to community youth in an effort to teach them the importance of cleaning the environment. Environmental team members teach youth ranging from elementary to college level about everything from the electric car program to recycling household items.

"We all need to focus on cleaning the environment," said Merianne Briggs, Environmental Management Directorate. "Reaching out to the younger generation gives us an opportunity to educate them, and help make way for a brighter, cleaner future."

Environmental personnel give briefings at schools, but science classes more often visit McClellan to learn about environmental problems, how to correct them, and how to keep them from happening again, according to Briggs.

"We give a brief description of our geology, problems in the environment, as well as cleanup technologies," explained Briggs. "We tour the base's groundwater treatment plant, a soil vapor extraction unit, and our naturalized areas, do hands-on water sampling, use slides and go through a question and answer period. Being on-site, seeing the cleanup equipment in action, and experiencing firsthand leaves the most lasting impression on the students."

The program has been a great success thanks to word-of-mouth and the Environmental Action Update, a newsletter mailed to more than 2,000 people.

"The newsletter tells the public what restoration activities are going on, as well as upcoming environment-related community activities," Briggs said. "We advertise that briefings are available on our program, and people respond."

McClellan's Environmental Management Directorate has been educating the communities' youngsters through the outreach program since the early 1990's.

For more information, call EM at 643-0830, Ext. 457.

## DO YOUR PART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

■ Attend or help organize Earth Day events

■ Support environmentally conscious businesses in your purchasing and investing decisions

■ Adopt a park or community area and restore or improve it for Earth Day

■ If you have a garden, use natural pest control methods

■ Reduce your energy consumption and increase your energy efficiency

■ Dispose of hazardous materials properly and minimize your use of such products

■ Conserve water

■ Keep your vehicle engine well-

tuned, emissions systems checked, buy radial tires and check tire pressure regularly

■ Support recycling at home and in your workplace

■ Compost food and yard debris

■ Buy products made with recycled materials, especially paper and paper products with "post-consumer" content

■ Bicycle, carpool or use public transportation

These and other suggestions can be found on the San Diego Earth Times, Earth Day Project Library web site at: [www.sdearthtimes.com/edn/cando/ideas.html](http://www.sdearthtimes.com/edn/cando/ideas.html)



# Warehouse “queen” prepares for closure

Story and photos by Sandra Kosmatin

Staff Writer

As the workers in the Technical Order Warehouse prepare to close their doors Sept. 28, Janet Breault, program assistant for Four Winds Incorporated, makes her last trek down Howard Avenue toward the Defense Accounting and Printing Service in her forklift March 30.

Breault drives toward her destination with her forklift decorated in balloons and streamers as she proudly wears a crown, representing her role as the Technical Order Queen. She stops to wave to a group of comrades standing on the ramp of Bldg. 250, and turns to wave to her pals standing outside the print shop, Bldg. 354.

“We refer to Janet as the TO Queen,” said Vickie Wertz, supply technician from the Technical Order Management Branch, with a huge smile. Wertz was one of about 10 people from her office who came out to watch Breault’s final trip to the print shop.

Over the past nine years, Breault has developed a close working relationship with the Defense Printing and Accounting Service and the Technical Order Management Branch. Although creating, editing and printing the technical orders is not her thing, Breault has the rest of the process, which includes stocking and shipping the TOs, down pat.

“Janet is the back bone of the warehouse stocking and distribution process,” said Wertz. “If we have any questions regarding TO quantities in the warehouse, receipt of a TO, or the quantity available for release, just ask Janet.”

Depending on funding and customer needs, Breault drives her forklift to DAPS, once or twice a week, picking up boxes of printed TOs to restock the warehouse. When things were in full swing at McClellan, she used to make as many as two runs a day, five days



Janet Breault, Four Winds Incorporated, waves to a group of comrades standing on the ramp of Bldg. 250 as she makes her final trip to the Defense Printing and Accounting Service on her forklift.

a week, to keep up with the requisition demands.

Technical orders provide a comprehensive set of steps and instructions used by the pilots and technicians to fly aircraft and maintain ground support. These manuals range from a checklist that fits in the pocket of a flight suit to a large foldout diagram used by technicians to perform operational checks and repair assets, such as satellite and ground radar systems.

After the technical orders are brought to the warehouse, they are identified and matched to their requisition labels. Then, the TOs are packed and shipped out world wide using a variety of methods, including normal base distribution, Federal Express and the U.S. Postal Service. According to Breault, the means of transportation is priority-driven.

“There is much to be done before closing down this warehouse,” commented Breault.

Although the runs, via forklift, to the print shop have come to an end, Breault and three other team members have their work cut out for them. The four-member team currently fills 150 to 200 requests for TOs daily.

“At one time we had approximately 20 people to fill 2,000 tickets a day,” said Breault. “For the past year and a half, we have been down to four people because of downsizing and base closure.”

The remaining technical orders currently stocked in McClellan’s TO warehouse are being separated, according to workload, and shipped to Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Robins AFB, Ga.; and Tinker AFB, Okla., to name a few.

“Even though the warehouse will be open until Sept. 28, we will only be processing flight safety TOs, all others have been or will be stock transferred—a process that started last Fall,” Breault commented.



The technical order warehouse four-member team from Four Winds Incorporated, works diligently to prepare the remaining TOs for shipping. From left, Janet Breault, program assistant; accounting clerks Cindy Edwards, Denise Thompson, and Tracy Hammond.

## OTS from ... Front Page

of arts in Human Resource Management. Once commissioned, Anderson-Richards will be a manpower officer.

"Despite the drawbacks affecting morale, I desire to enhance the professional relationship between the officer and enlisted corps and still maintain the pillars of our professionalism and image — our core values," said Anderson-Richards. "I have extensive knowledge of the enlisted perspective on various issues and I hope to utilize this knowledge base to further strengthen the relationship between officers and enlisted. I wholeheartedly believe that if you take care of the people, they will take care of you by

taking care of the mission - your ultimate goal. Enlisted personnel don't care what you know until they know that you care. I know I have a long road ahead of me and a lot of work to do; but I am looking forward to it."

McCoy decided to apply for OTS after a discussion with her supervisor, Capt. Kevin Brooks, regarding the Air Force, where it has been and where it is going.

"Capt. Brooks made me realize how much I enjoy being part of an elite team and the difference I can make as an officer," said McCoy.

Once notified of her acceptance to OTS, McCoy felt excitement and fear.

"Excited for accomplishing a goal and fear because this means I have to go back to ba-

sic training for 12 weeks," McCoy said. "One can only rise at the crack of dawn and yell out the Air Force song so many times," she joked.

McCoy has been in the Air Force for four years, has a bachelor's degree in Business Human Resources and a master's degree in Business Administration. She is slated to be a services officer following OTS.

"I feel that I have been very lucky since arriving at McClellan," said McCoy. "Great leadership and mentoring from supervisors, co-workers, friends, and my husband have given me what I needed to succeed. I hope to follow their example and use what I have learned without forgetting where I came from."

## FOCUS CENTER

*This section contains some of the job announcements available at the McClellan Air Force Base FOCUS Center. For additional information, contact the FOCUS Center, Bldg. 9, at 643-5661. The center is open until 7 p.m. Thursdays.*

*Note: Copies of the vacancy announcements are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSAs and/or additional information.*

**Position:** Realty Specialist, GS-1170-05/09

**Annc#:** FS-DS-0-0416

**Close:** April 28

**Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Agency:** Army Corp of Engineers

**POC:** (415) 744-5627

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Administrative Assistant, GS-303-05

**Annc#:** NASS-SOM-0658

**Close:** April 24

**Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Agency:** Dept of Agriculture

**POC:** D. Rodriquez (202) 720-6130

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Administrative Support Assistant, GS-303-05/07

**Annc#:** DSS-00-3603-YL

**Close:** April 24

**Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Agency:** Defense Security Service

**POC:** (703) 617-0652

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Personnel Clerk, GS-203-04/05

**Annc#:** R504-016-00G

**Close:** May 8

**Location:** Nevada, CA; Placerville, CA

**Agency:** Forest Service

**POC:** Cheryl Dorosh (530) 642-5188

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Medical Records Administration Specialist, GS-669-09

**Annc#:** VA-1-00-0330

**Close:** April 26

**Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Agency:** Veterans Administration

**POC:** Adriana Gracias (310) 268-4150

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Medical Clerk, GS-679-05 (2 Vacancies)

**Annc#:** VA-1-00-0457

**Close:** April 20

**Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Agency:** Veterans Administration

**POC:** Adriana Gracias (310) 268-4150

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Secretary (Office Automation), GS-318-05

**Annc#:** VA-1-00-0455

**Close:** April 20

**Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Agency:** Veterans Health Administration

**POC:** Adriana Gracias (310) 268-4150

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Airplane Pilot, GS-2181-12

**Annc#:** CA-00-058DO-MP

**Close:** May 7

**Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

**POC:** (916) 978-4460

**Remarks:** See note.

**Position:** Fleet & Equipment Specialist, GS-2150-11

**Annc#:** R503-303-00

**Close:** May 8

**Location:** Camino, CA

**Agency:** Forest Service

**POC:** Nancie Wilson (530) 642-5186

**Remarks:** See note.

## Secretarial job fair



The FOCUS Center is sponsoring a secretarial job fair, April 27, 1 - 4 p.m., in the Chapel Annex, Bldg. 1420.

The fair is open to all McClellan employees, civilian and military. For more information, call Greg Eason at 643-5661.

Note: Administrative leave is not authorized for this function.

## Movies



Movies start at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, in Bldg. 1417. Movies are subject to change.

### Drowning Mona - Friday

*Starring: Danny DeVito, Bette Midler*

North of Manhattan lies the quiet little town of Verplanck, New York. No one in town seems to blink when one of its best known and least liked residents drives her Yugo into the Hudson. But it wasn't an accident. The problem in Chief Rash's investigation was not who did it, but rather who didn't. (PG - 13 language and brief sexuality)

### Reindeer Games - Saturday

*Starring: Ben Affleck, Charlize Theron*

Rudy is a petty car thief, released from prison just in time for Christmas. He cashes in on a case of mistaken identity in hopes of romancing Ashley. But her sinister truck-driving brother and his dubious companions pressure Rudy into heisting a casino, assuming he's an accomplished crook. (R- language, sexual content, violence)

### 3 Strikes - Sunday

*Starring: Brian Hooks, N'Bushe Wright*

On Rob's first day out of prison good luck is on lock down. After serving time for his second infraction, Rob's freedom goes sour when he becomes an unwitting accomplice in a shoot out. Another conviction spells a 25 to life sentence; something he'll avoid at all costs. (PG-13 - sexual content, language)

## Youth Center

■ **Today:** Open recreation, 2-6 p.m.; open gym, 2-3 p.m.; open snack bar, 2-5 p.m.; advanced gymnastics, 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Tae Bo Aerobics, 6:15-7:15 p.m., ages 11 and up, free. Moms, Pops, and Tots, 10-11 a.m.

■ **Friday:** Open recreation, 2-6 p.m.; open snack bar 2-6 p.m.; open gym, 2-6 p.m. Pre-teen night, ages 9-12, 6:30-9 p.m. Members free, nonmembers \$2.

■ **Saturday:** Open recreation and snack bar from noon to 5 p.m. Art Club meets at noon.

■ **Sunday:** Closed

■ **Monday:** Open recreation and gym, 2-6 p.m.; open snack bar, 2-5 p.m.

■ **Tuesday:** Open recreation, 2-6 p.m.; open gym, 4:15-6 p.m.; open snack bar, 2-5 p.m.; beginning gymnastics, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

■ **Wednesday:** Open recreation, 2-6 p.m.; open gym, 2-5:15 p.m.; open snack bar, 2-5 p.m.; beginning dance lessons, 5:30-6:30 p.m.



U.S. Air Force photo by Robin Jackson

## Story time

Youths from the McClellan Child Development Center, pre-school-age class, listen to Debbie Arnold, family advocacy program assistant, as she reads the book titled "I Am So Mad." The visit, sponsored by the McClellan Family Advocacy Office, was aimed at helping youths, ages 2 - 5, learn how to properly manage anger. The activity marked one of many events on base in celebration of the Month of the Military Child. The Family Advocacy Office is also sponsoring a family bowl-a-thon Tuesday at Camellia Lanes from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Cost is 50 cents a game with free shoe rental for children. For more information, call 643-1518.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Bike commute day

Team McClellan is scheduled to participate in the bike parade and rally at the state capital May 18 at noon, as part of California Bicycle Commute Week 2000.

For more information, call 643-3672, Ext. 473.

### Summer Fun Program

The McClellan Youth Center is enrolling youths for the Summer Fun Program. Summer Fun begins June 12 and ends Sept. 1. Hours of operation are from 6:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The program is for children ages 5-12 and is open to dependents of active duty military members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

The program offers weekly field trips, crafts, swimming, enrichment activities, physical fitness and much more. Breakfast, morning and afternoon snacks, and a hot lunch will be provided. Fees are based on total household annual income.

For more information, call 643-2074.

### Month of Military Child

In recognition of "The Month of the Military Child," the McClellan Child Development Center is sponsoring multiple activities.

-- Spring egg hunt, Friday

-- Parent luncheon, Wednesday, 11 a.m.

-- Sports Day, April 28, 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call 643-3611.

*“Mom, can I have a real rabbit for Easter?”*

# Chocolate bunnies less work, experts say

A real Easter bunny is a lifelong commitment, experts say. Parents may want to fill Easter baskets with chocolate bunnies this year, unless they're ready for a lifelong commitment to the real Peter Cottontail, says a University of Florida rabbit specialist.

The fact that rabbits are sold at Easter leads to a lot of impulse buying, said Bobby Collins, a small-animal science professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“That’s okay if you’re making a long-term commitment to integrate that animal into your household and your life,” Collins said. “They are fuzzy and wonderful at Easter but if they grow up to be ignored, that’s not healthy for the animal — or for kids learning about caring for animals.”

People who think rabbits require less maintenance than a dog or cat should think again, Collins said.

While rabbits can be ideal for apartment living, in some ways they require more care than a dog or a cat.

Rabbits have many of the same health problems associated with cats or dogs — hairballs and fleas, for instance — plus a few all their own, Collins said.

Rabbits’ spines are delicate and can be fractured by something as simple as jumping out of a child’s arms. This makes it important when picking up a rabbit to support the rabbit in a manner in which it feels secure.

Collins said rabbits also are prone to a disease called snuffles, a bacterial infection


caused by the organism *Pasteurella multocida*, which lives in the nasal passages of almost all rabbits. In mild forms, it can cause the rabbit discomfort and in severe forms it can result in the death of the rabbit. Collins gives rabbit owners the same advice as dog or cat owners: Have a reserve of cash ready to spend on veterinary care in case of an emergency.


“I can guarantee your rabbit will have some illness that will require major hospitalization and care during its lifetime,” said Collins.


Owners of house-rabbits also need to take a long look at their home and ask themselves “what can this rabbit get into,” Collins said. Rabbits will chew on anything: electrical cords, furniture, even baseboards. They will crawl up into the springs of furniture and sometimes get trapped. Other pets may attack them. Collins said he recently treated a rabbit that became sick after eating carpet and cardboard. It cost the owner \$700.


“It’s much better to keep an eye on your rabbit and not let it eat the carpet,” Collins said. “I hear people say they have rabbit-proofed their home but that’s like saying a home is child-proof. There’s really no way to do that. You just have to keep an eye on your rabbit at all times when it is out of its cage. This pet is coming to your house forever,” Collins said, “not just for Easter.”


Collins offers these tips for those considering adopting a rabbit:


 Rabbits’ claws need to be clipped every three to four weeks.


 Ears need to be examined periodically for ear mites.


 Rabbits groom themselves and can get hairballs that need to be treated like a cat’s hairballs.


 Some rabbits get overgrown teeth that need to be filed by a veterinarian.

 Caged rabbits need to be protected from wind, sun and rain. The cage floor needs to include a smooth surface to keep the rabbit’s hocks from getting sore.

 Indoor rabbits need to be kept from chewing cords on electrical appliances, telephones, curtains, etc. They also need to be barred from climbing into box springs or the batting of sofas and chairs.

 Rabbits shed and need to be brushed or combed at least once weekly. They will accept grooming more readily if you begin grooming when they are young.

 Rabbits can and should be neutered or spayed. This is especially important in females to prevent uterine cancer.

 Rabbits kept outdoors and out of a pen should be supervised from becoming prey to hawks, owls, raccoons and other wildlife.

*(Information provided by  
[www.twingroves.district96.k12.il.us/Easter/EasterBunny.html](http://www.twingroves.district96.k12.il.us/Easter/EasterBunny.html))*

## SWAP MEET

### For Sale

**Car** -- 91 Mercury Grand Marquis LS, V8, pampered, exc cond, orig owner, all power, silver with Landeav top, \$4,200. Call 363-0889.

**Truck** -- 95 Ford F150 pickup--Eddie Bauer edition, 5-spd, 30,200 miles, tow pkg, bed liner, duel tanks, alarm, AC, cruise, power windows and mirrors, and more, \$10,000. Call 392-2961.

**Piano** -- Piano with bench, exc cond, \$600. Call 348-6977 eves.

**Motorcycle** -- Nighthawk, 83 Honda 650, new battery, 31,822 miles, \$750. Call 966-3818 eves.

**Travel Trailer** -- 84 Travel Trailer-Companion/Kit 23 ft, self contained, AC, stove, frig, mi-

crowave, shower and tub. Call 392-2961.

### Miscellaneous

**Moving sale** -- 18 ft Motor home, TV, VCR, bike, furniture, mens clothing and household goods. Call 334-3246.

**Editor’s note:** Swap ads are a free, space-available-only service for military members, civil service employees, retirees and associated family members possessing current ID cards. The ads must be for the personal use of the card holder.

Only a home phone or address may be used in the ad; no base extensions or base e-mail addresses are allowed, except for dormitory residents (residential status must be stated on

ad). Personal e-mail addresses will be accepted. Drop off ads at Bldg. 200, room 125. Swap ads will not be published without a signature.

The deadline is noon, Wednesday for possible publication in the following Thursday’s issue. Only one Swap ad per household per week, up to 50 words, may be submitted.

However, the ad can apply to more than one category, such as items wanted/trade, vehicles, furniture and yard sales. Spacemaker reserves the right to edit. No ads for money-making businesses, including daycare, or the sale of firearms or firearm accessories will be accepted. To run a swap ad again, it must be resubmitted. For more information, call the Spacemaker at 643-6100.